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the colleges and engages in lengthy comparisons of the curricula of these frontier colleges with that of his own University of Virginia. He meets preachers, lawyers, merchants, politicians, judges, pretty maidens, and stately dames, and his comments on all of them are clever and instructive. In a piece of fiction there must, of course, be a love story and so the "editor" arranges that this young, handsome Virginian shall fall in love with a beautiful young lady whom he meets on his travels, and finally the "tour" is crowned with the announcement of his betrothal. But alas and alack, the young Mr. Parsons dies on his way home to Virginia and so ends abruptly this "tour through Indiana."

*Educational legislation and administration in the state of New York from 1777-1850.* By Elsie Garland Hobson. (Chicago: The University of Chicago, 1920. 264 p. \$1.60)

This treatise, professing to be "little more than a chronicle of legislation and an exposition of results," presents a complete calendar of educational legislation in New York between 1777 and 1850. As a chronicle it is highly successful; it is accurate and very readable. As "an exposition of results" it falls short of completion because the author made no study of local sources. For example, the author summarizes the provisions of the act of April 9, 1795, and then remarks that "this attempt to establish common schools was not a success." This important enactment deserves more extended consideration. It represents New York's first attempt to establish a system of common schools throughout the state. It clearly indicated the organization of a district system and placed in the hands of the people the responsibility for the administration of the schools. The chief "results" of this statute, or of any statute, are the practices established by it, and these can be ascertained only by an examination of local source material.

Precision is lacking in a few statements. The expression, "Hollanders formed the first settlements at New York," should be corrected to read, "Hollanders formed the first settlements at New Amsterdam." In another instance the author says, "Huguenots, after the Edict of Nantes, found a refuge at New Rochelle, New Platz [*sic!*], and New York City." True enough; but they did not find this "refuge" until some years "after the Edict of Nantes," the date of which was 1598. But such statements are too few to detract, in any significant sense, from the value of the monograph.

The author has done a successful piece of pioneer work. She has put together in compact form, and with interesting comment, a great deal of hitherto scattered material. It constitutes, with its concise appendixes, a valuable reference volume.

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